IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A communication system that communicatively connects a first network and a second network, comprising:

a first interconnecting device connected to a first communication device of said first network;

an authentication apparatus, connected between said first interconnecting device and a second communication device of said second network, operable to control whether or not communication between said first and second communication devices is allowed; and

an external recording device connecting to said first interconnecting device and operable to store authentication information of a user of said first communication device, said authentication information being used for authentication of the user by said authentication apparatus, wherein said first interconnecting device comprises: an acquiring unit operable to acquire said authentication information of the user of said first communication device from said external recording device; and a transmit unit operable to transmit said authentication information acquired by said acquiring unit to said authentication apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication apparatus includes:

a receive unit operable to receive said authentication information from said first interconnecting device;

an authentication unit connected to said receive unit and operable to authenticate said authentication information received by said receive unit; and

a setting unit connected to said authentication unit and operable to allow communication between said first communication device and said authentication apparatus when the authentication by said authentication unit is successful.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said acquiring unit of said first interconnecting device is further operable to acquire bandwidth information from said external recording device;

said transmit unit of said first interconnecting device is further operable to transmit said bandwidth information acquired by said acquiring unit to said authentication apparatus;

said receive unit of said authentication apparatus is further operable to receive said bandwidth information from said first interconnecting device; and

said setting unit of said authentication apparatus is further operable to set a communication bandwidth between said first communication device and said authentication apparatus based on said bandwidth information.

4. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device for connecting a first network and a second network to enable communication between a first communication device of said first network and a second communication device of said second network, the interconnecting device comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire from a recording device, which is outside said interconnecting device, authentication information of a user of said first communication device for authentication of the user, by an authentication apparatus, which controls whether or not communication between said first and second communication devices is allowed; and

a transmit unit connected to said acquiring unit and operable to transmit said authentication information received by said acquiring unit to said authentication apparatus;

wherein said interconnecting device is located between said first communication device and said authentication apparatus.

5. (Original) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said acquiring unit comprises a reading unit operable to read said authentication information from a non-volatile memory that comprises said recording device storing said authentication information.

6. (Original) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said acquiring unit includes a receive unit operable to perform wireless communication with a wireless communication device that comprises said recording device storing said authentication information, and to receive said authentication information from said wireless communication device by the wireless communication.

7. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said acquiring unit further acquires identification information of said authentication apparatus from said recording device, and said transmit unit transmits said authentication information to said authentication apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a setting unit connected to said acquiring unit and operable to set a communication bandwidth between said first and second communication devices, wherein said acquiring unit further acquires bandwidth information from said recording device, and

said setting unit sets said communication bandwidth based on said bandwidth information acquired by said acquiring unit.

9. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a decryption unit connected to said acquiring unit and operable to decrypt encrypted authentication information.

10. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a processing unit connected to said transmit unit and operable to determine whether or not said authentication apparatus is allowed to authenticate the user, wherein said transmit unit transmits said authentication information to said authentication apparatus when said processing unit determines that said authentication apparatus is allowed to authenticate the user.

11. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said processing unit determines that said authentication apparatus is allowed to authenticate the user when said first communication device has been turned on.

12. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said processing unit determines that said authentication apparatus is allowed to authenticate the user when said interconnecting device has been turned on.

13. (Previously Presented) A program, stored in a computer-readable medium, for use in an interconnecting device that connects a first network and a second network to allow communication between a first communication device of said first network and a second communication device of said second network, the program comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire from a recording device, that is outside said interconnecting device, authentication information of a user of said first communication device, used for authentication of the user by an authentication apparatus, which controls whether or not communication between said first and second communication devices is allowed; and

a transmit unit operable to transmit said authentication information to said authentication apparatus;

wherein said interconnecting device is located between said first communication device and said authentication apparatus.

14. (Previously Presented) A program as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a setting unit operable to set a communication bandwidth between said first and second communication devices, wherein

said acquiring unit further operates to acquire bandwidth information from said recording device, and

said setting unit operates to set the communication bandwidth based on said bandwidth information.

15. (Previously Presented) A program as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a decryption unit operable to decrypt encrypted authentication information.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said authentication apparatus is located between said interconnecting device and said communication device.

18. (Previously Presented) An interconnecting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said interconnecting device prevents said first communication device from directly communicating to said second network.